

Meeting Date: July 19, 2007

Agenda Item No. 12

Agenda Item: Rules: Access Yes Landowner Appreciation Permits – Unit 45 (Action) **Approved by:** _____

Prepared by: Brad Compton

Background:

In 2007, the Idaho Fish & Game Commission adopted, and the Department of Fish & Game implemented the Magic Valley Access Yes Pilot Project. Goals of the pilot project are to expand hunting, fishing, and trapping opportunities on private land, and to improve private land wildlife habitat. Big game landowner tags are one of the incentives used to solicit private landowner participation in the pilot project. Tags for the pilot project were made available from the existing pool of Landowner Appreciation Program (LAP) tags.

Providing landowner tags for the pilot project in Unit 45 necessitated a reduction in available LAP tags. Landowners eligible for LAP tags in Unit 45 exceed the number of tags available. Not all of the Unit 45 landowner tags allocated to the pilot project will be used.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Idaho Code 36-104 (b)(5) and IDAPA 13.01.04.400 provide authority and rules for allocating landowner tags. Additionally, the Commission adopted temporary rules in January 2007 regulating the allocation of big game tags for the Magic Valley Access Yes Pilot Project.

Public Involvement Process:

Development of the Magic Valley Access Yes Pilot Project received considerable public involvement; including landowner and sportsmen mail surveys, landowner and sportsmen focus groups, public meetings, review by the Fish & Game Advisory Committee, and Commission hearings.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Commission reallocate unused pilot project landowner tags to LAP tags in Unit 45.

Justification:

Commission action required to establish LAP tag levels.